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Current Events

[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Roxbury, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and by Frederick C. Eastman, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

Illinois

Oak Park High School.—Miss Laura B. Woodruff writes: In reply to Miss Foote's inquiry in the February issue of the *Classical Journal*, one of our Junior girls has written to her concerning a scheme of class organization we have tried this year. In addition to this I am sending you the inclosed brief statement of the same on the chance that it may be of some interest.

One of our Cicero classes has formed of its 24 members a miniature Roman republic, whose citizens have elected and inaugurated two consuls, each to take charge of the affairs of state a week at a time. They have also chosen two praetors and five quaestors from their number, and in accordance with the ancient Roman custom of naming special days on which certain religious rites should be observed, they have set aside two days of each week for certain definite tasks, Monday for prose and ten or fifteen minutes of Wednesday's class hour for written sight translation. In addition to this they have celebrated one of the old Roman festivals of sowing on January 26, and will celebrate one or two other festivals during the year. Just before the spring vacation elections will be held for new officers who shall serve during the remainder of the year, and after that the magistrates and ex-magistrates will be enrolled as members of the senate before which some prisoners of the state are to be examined and their fate determined, as was done in the time of Cicero.

Lewis Institute.—On Thursday, January 28, at the meeting of the Classical Club of Lewis Institute, Mr. J. M. Owen of the English department spoke on "The Interrelation of Latin and English." Among many other interesting contributions of Latin to English he gave a list of proper names derived from the Latin. It was decided that the March meeting should be used for a social gathering of the friends of the club. As the chorus of Lewis Institute on February 26 had given a very elaborate pageant at the Auditorium Theater, consisting of a portrayal of the various activities of the school, enacted by five hundred students and aided by beautiful dances, it seemed appropriate to parody this in a classical vein.

And so on March 11 *The Pageant of Hades—A Parody* was given in the auditorium of the Institute under the direction of Mr. Herbert F. Hancox.

This traced the journeys of both Odysseus and Aeneas in their trips to Hades, combining what they had seen with other features not given by Homer or Vergil. The first unit showed Odysseus digging his trench and pouring libations to the shades, who presently danced in and attempted to drink the blood of the slaughtered sheep. But they were warded off until Tiresias tottered in and told Odysseus of the fate he was yet to meet. The second unit pictured Hermes conducting the souls of the dead to the river Styx, where Charon was rowing his boat to and fro. Aeneas and the Sibyl with difficulty persuaded the boatman to ferry them across. On the other shore they found Cerberus, the three-headed dog who barked at them as they approached.

In the third unit the Hall of Persephone was shown. Just outside the gates in the Mourning Fields, Dido met Aeneas but refused to speak to him. Inside sat the dread Persephone and the three Fates. Tityos lay stretched out on the ground; Tantalus tried in vain to reach the grapes and water; Sisyphus kept rolling his stone up the hill while the daughters of Danaus attempted to fill the bottomless jar. The fourth unit represented the Elysian Fields. Here the warriors fought, the young athletes ran and wrestled, the crowds danced and sang, Orion pursued his prey, and even Hercules wandered, contrary to the usual accounts, trying to get the aid of Atlas again.

All of this was carried on in pantomime, while an explanation was given by the "Prologus." Solos, duets, and quartets helped at times to lend a point to the acting, some in parody and others not. As the purpose was to interest as well as to instruct, the ridiculous was mingled with the serious. The pageant was a great success, judged by the large attendance and enthusiasm created.

Kansas

Lindsborg.—The ninth annual meeting of the Classical Association of Kansas and Western Missouri was held at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, on March 26-27. The following program was presented: Address of Welcome, E. F. Pihlblad, Bethany College; Illustrated Lecture, "Picturesque and Historic Sicily," Professor Walter Miller, University of Missouri; President's Address, "Our Possibility in the Study of Ancient Languages," Professor Irene Nye, Washburn College; "An Attempt to Establish a Uniform Grammatical Nomenclature," Miss Lulu Grosh, Wichita; "The Teaching of Latin Prose in the High School," Mr. Frank D. Miller, Wellington; "Supervised Study," Miss Martha Thompson, Kansas City, Kansas; "Library Helps for the High-School Latin Teacher," Professor E. D. Cressman, University of Kansas, "Seven Greek Allegories and Modern Parallels" Professor Homer K. Ebright, Baker University; Illustrated Lecture, "Athen's Rival in the West," Professor Walter Miller.

Emporia.—"Latin is not a dead language; it has only changed its name," says Professor W. H. Holtz, of the Latin department of the Emporia State Normal School. "Popular Latin has never ceased to exist. It is the language

today of France, Spain, Italy, Roumania, and all the Romance countries." Moreover, according to the 1913-14 Kansas high-school reports, only three other high-school subjects enrol more pupils than Latin. These are mathematics, with 31,000 pupils, English with 30,000, history with 15,000, while Latin is next with 13,000 pupils taught by 446 Latin instructors. The Emporia Normal Latin Club recently gave a Washington and Lincoln program, all the parts being in Latin composed by the students, from the cherry-tree story to Lincoln's Gettysburg Oration.

New England

The eighth annual meeting of the Eastern Massachusetts Section of the Classical Association of New England was held at Harvard Hall, Cambridge, on Saturday, January 23. In spite of a stormy day more than one hundred and fifty were present. The following program was given: A Greeting, by Professor Charles Burton Gulick, president of the section; "Latin for Its Utility," Mr. William L. Anderson, head of the commercial department, Dorchester High School; "The Classics in Preparatory School and College," Miss Bertha M. Boody, dean of Radcliffe College; Lantern Talk: "Greek and Roman Art," Mr. Huger Elliott, Boston Museum of Fine Arts; "Virgil and Tennyson," Dr. Samuel V. Cole, president of Wheaton College; "Greece, Past and Present: Economic Contrasts," Professor William S. Ferguson, Harvard University.

New Mexico

University of New Mexico.—Professor Mitchell sends the following interesting item: the Freshman class in the University of New Mexico, which is studying Roman comedy, has recently given a modification of Miss Paxson's *Roman Wedding*. The play was produced at the university and later repeated in the city to stimulate interest in Latin in the high school. The center of interest was the cake used for the confarreate ceremony. While it was not *panis farreus*, nor was it a real wedding cake, *mustaceum*, it was nevertheless made according to a recipe found in sec. 84 of the *De re rustica* of Cato. As this work is little read now, most high-school teachers of Latin may find it an interesting novelty. The recipe is given here in the belief that members of the Classical Association will want to try it: "Savillum hoc modo facito. Farinae selibram, casei Piis. Una commisceto quasi libum. Addito mellis P≡ et ovum unum. Catinum fictile oleo unguito. Ubi omnia bene commiscueris, in catinum indito. Catinum testo operito. Videto ut bene percocas medium, ubi altissimum est. Ubi coctum erit, catinum eximito, melle unguito, papaver infriato, sub testum subde paulisper, postea eximito. Ita pone cum catillo et lingula." (Make a Sweet Cake in the following manner: $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. flour, of cheese $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. Mix together as in a "libum," add 3 oz. honey and one egg. Grease an earthenware pan with olive oil. When you have thoroughly mixed all the ingredients, pour into pan, cover with lid [the Romans used

earthenware, not metal]. See that you thoroughly bake the middle where it is the deepest. When done, remove from oven, smear the top with honey, scatter poppy seeds over top, plunge the bottom of pan for a moment into cold water, then remove the cake from the pan. Serve on small dishes with spoons.)

Notes: The farina (flour) was rather coarse, and the process for separating bran from flour had not yet been discovered. Use Graham flour.

The *catinus*, from descriptions, resembles our soup plate. It varied in size.

The Roman pound equals $11\frac{1}{2}$ ounces avoirdupois. The Roman pound was divided into 12 ounces.

The Romans did not use yeast or baking powder.

The cake, if carefully made according to directions, is not half bad, and will give an idea of the taste of Roman baked products.

Ohio

Columbus.—At the midwinter meeting of the Columbus Ohio Latin Club, an interesting paper on the "Direct Method" was read by Miss Ida Feiel of of South High School. The discussion which followed was animated, largely so because some of the members of the club had visited the English schools in which this method is used. A paper was also read by Miss Marie Gugle on the "Six-Six Plan" with special reference to its effect on the study of Latin.

Pennsylvania

University of Pennsylvania.—Dr. Eugene S. McCartney, instructor in Latin, was appointed to a classical fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, for 1914-16, and though his departure was delayed by the European war, he reached Rome about the middle of November. His duties are taken by two assistants in Latin, Mr. W. D. Crockett, on leave of absence from his position at State College, and Mr. E. H. Heffner, previously at the Franklin and Marshall Academy, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Walter Woodburn Hyde, instructor in Greek at the University of Pennsylvania, was promoted to be assistant professor of Greek, at the opening of the academic year 1914-15.

The Graduate Latin Club of the University of Pennsylvania entertained the Classical Faculty in the parlors of the Women's Dormitories on the evening of Saturday, December 12, 1914. In accordance with the usual practices, an original farce was presented, entitled *Quousque tandem quirites*, or "The Crime and the Penalty" which in clever fashion parodied the activities of the department. This was the ninth annual performance of the kind by the graduate students in Latin.

Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Liberal Studies.—The third general meeting of the Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Liberal Studies was held on the afternoon and evening of Friday, February 26, at the Philadelphia High School for Girls, seventeenth and Spring Garden streets.

The program was begun at five o'clock with an illustrated lecture on "The Palaces and Towns of Crete," by Dr. Edith H. Hall, assistant curator of the Mediterranean Section of the University Museum. After a few remarks on the impossibility of excavation in Crete until the end of the Turkish rule in the island, Dr. Hall went on to describe the most interesting of the remains at Cnossos, where Sir Arthur Evans has been uncovering the palace of Minos; then she described the excavations of the Italians in the south of the island, and those of the Americans in the eastern portion in which she herself participated for several seasons. In closing, she displayed a number of views illustrating the conditions under which excavations are conducted. But the most noteworthy views were those of the chryselephantine statuette of the "snake goddess," recently acquired by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. The statuette is unique, since it still retains the gold ornamentation placed upon the ivory; in all other examples of this technique the gold has disappeared.

Supper was served in the dining-rooms of the school, and at 7:30 the evening session was begun. Two Latin plays, *A Roman School* and *A Roman Wedding*, were presented by students of the Philadelphia High School for Girls, under the direction of Miss Jessie E. Allen, head of the classical department in the school, and met with great favor. The participants acted with zeal and understanding, and showed clearly how inspiring such work can become. The careful pronunciation of the actors was remarked by many of the auditors.

At the conclusion of the plays, Professor Charles Knapp, of the classical department of Columbia University, delivered an address upon "Liberal Studies." Drawing upon the writings of Cicero, as well as from the plays of Plautus, he showed that in Rome in ancient times there existed the outcry against liberal studies, and the clamor for those studies which seemed to be immediately practical and vocational. But he went on to show that Cicero, disregarding the general attitude of his fellow-countrymen, applied himself to the acquisition of the finest education possible, including a most thorough training in Greek and in philosophy, as a necessary preliminary to a career as statesman and orator; and that his training in these lines was what raised him above his rivals and gave him his proud position as Rome's greatest orator as well as his high position in many other lines. Cicero was the best-educated and best-trained man that Rome ever produced.

At intervals in the program, and at the close of the address, students of the school rendered in most pleasing fashion a number of Latin and Greek songs.

Both sessions were presided over by Professor Walter Dennison, of Swarthmore College, president of the society. The treasurer, Dr. G. D. Hadzsits, assistant professor of Latin in the university reports that the society now numbers over 350 members, and that numerous additions to the roll were made at the meeting. About one hundred and fifty were present at the afternoon

session, nearly all of whom remained for the supper. The attendance at the evening session was close to five hundred.

The second annual business meeting of the society will be held at the Drexel Institute, thirty-second and Chestnut streets, on Saturday, March 27.

Washington

Tacoma.—Saturday evening, March 6, a very interesting program was presented under the auspices of the Latin department in the auditorium of Stadium High School.

Miss Paxson's *A Roman Wedding* scored a notable success. The actors, chosen by Mrs. Varnes from her Latin classes, had been so well trained as to render the play almost self-interpretative. A clear synopsis of the different scenes, given by one of the students just before the first act, was a help to those in the audience who were familiar with neither the language nor the social customs of the Romans. The stage setting had been carefully worked out, and the beautiful colors and graceful lines of the costumes added to the artistic effect.

The evening's program also included some living pictures representing classical art, a piano solo, a humorous English-Latin recitation, and two dances, one given by boys and the other by girls from the department of physical training.

One purpose in giving the entertainment was to secure funds for the purchase of slides illustrating Rome, Troy, Carthage, and Gaul. The result most seriously hoped for, however, was an increased enthusiasm for the study of Latin. In every way, the effort was delightfully successful, furnishing the audience an unusually enjoyable entertainment, giving the students who participated much valuable training, and reflecting great credit upon Mrs. Varnes who planned the program and assumed the responsibility of its production.